

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for opportunistically tracking the location of a portable device in a wireless infrastructure comprising at least one fixed station operable to communicate wirelessly with said portable device, comprising:

the portable device providing its unique device identifier to the station when within communication range of said station,

generating association data comprising the unique device identifier with the location of said station, and

uploading said association data via a backchannel to a remote database wherein said data is stored;

wherein the association data comprises time and date of reception of the unique device identifier together with the unique device identifier and the location of the station, and the station uploads said association data to the remote database, and wherein

the association data further comprises a leaving time, the leaving time being when the portable device left the communication range of said station.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein upon receipt of the unique device identifier, the station transmits said identifier and its station identifier to an infrastructure computer.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2 wherein the infrastructure computer receives said station identifier and said unique device identifier, and generates the association data.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3 wherein the infrastructure computer uploads said association data to the remote database.

Claim 5 (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1,

wherein a client terminal connects with the remote database, and wherein said remote database is operable to supply the association data to said client terminal in dependence on the client supplying the unique device identifier.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the supply of the association data is supplied in exchange for a fee.

8. (Previously Presented) A system for opportunistically tracking the location of a portable device having a unique device identifier associated therewith, comprising a wireless infrastructure having at least one fixed station, station receiving means for receiving the unique device identifier transmitted by said portable device when within communication range, generation means for generating data comprising the unique device identifier with the location of said station, and uploading means for uploading said generated association data via a backchannel to a remote database wherein said data is stored;

wherein the station generates association data comprising time and date of unique identifier reception together with the unique

device identifier and the location of the station, and the station uploads said association data to the remote database, and wherein the association data further comprises a leaving time, the leaving time being when the portable device left the communication range of said station.

9. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 8, further comprising an infrastructure computer in communication with the at least one fixed station of said infrastructure and the remote database, said computer having stored information relating to the location of the at least one station, and wherein said at least one station is configured to communicate the received unique device identifier to the computer, and wherein said computer generates and uploads said association data to the remote database via the backchannel.

10. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 8, wherein communication between the at least one station and the portable device is performed via a wireless protocol in which devices are assigned unique identifiers.

11. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 10, wherein the protocol is the ZigBee protocol.

12. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 10, wherein the protocol is the Bluetooth protocol.

13. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 10, further comprising a remote client terminal operable to establish a connection with the remote database, and wherein said remote database is operable to supply the association data to said remote client terminal in dependence on the remote client terminal supplying the unique device identifier.

14. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 13, wherein the supply of the association data is supplied in exchange for a fee.

15. (Previously Presented) A database for use with the system of claim 8, said database storing location tracking information, the information comprising date, time and location data associated with a unique wireless device identifier, and wherein the database

is operable to supply said information in response to a request comprising unique device wireless identifier.

16. (Previously Presented) A fixed station for use with the system of claim 8, comprising means for receiving the unique device identifier, means for generating the association data and means for uploading said data to a connected computer.

17. (Previously Presented) A portable device having the unique wireless identifier for use with the system of claim 8 in the form of a tag having a ZigBee radio module.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the association data further comprises a pattern of detection of the portable device by a plurality of fixed stations.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the association data further comprises a pattern of detection of the portable device by a plurality of fixed stations.